



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

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VERIZON WIRELESS DONATES 300 CELL PHONES TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FREE SERVICE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

***DONATION WILL ENSURE THE SAFETY OF WOMEN WHO ARE THREATENED
BY STALKING OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

SAN DIEGO--City Attorney Casey Gwinn announced today that Verizon Wireless, the Official Wireless Partner for the City of San Diego, is donating an additional 300 wireless phones to the Domestic Violence Unit of the City Attorney's Office and free service to San Diego's the Domestic Violence Hotline. The donation, which will be used to help fight domestic violence in San Diego, is part of the San Diego Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership; a cooperative effort launched last February between Mayor Dick Murphy, City Attorney Casey Gwinn, the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, and Verizon Wireless and other partners.

The pre-programmed phones will be given to victims of domestic violence and stalking. In an emergency, pressing one button on the phone will connect the user with the nearest 911 law enforcement agency dispatcher, who can quickly assess the situation and send help. The single touch of another button connects the program participant directly to the San Diego Domestic Violence Council's toll-free Domestic Violence Information and Referral Hotline: 1-888-305-SAFE (7233).

City Attorney Gwinn says, "It is wonderful to see businesses, like Verizon Wireless, getting involved with issues facing our community, especially domestic violence. We all play an important role in the fight against domestic violence. While a cell phone may not deter a perpetrator obsessed with destruction, it may save a victim's life by giving her the ability to call for help when she needs it."

The partnership is a comprehensive campaign, which began with awareness and outreach to local businesses, a phone collection drive and a donation of 100 digital wireless phones to the Domestic Violence Unit of the City Attorney's Office. The Unit has acted as a central point of contact for the distribution of these phones directly to victims or to domestic violence agencies throughout San Diego.

"Verizon Wireless is proud to be part of the San Diego Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership, and grateful that our technology can and does help link victims directly to life-saving emergency assistance," said Verizon Wireless Regional President Greg Klimek. "Knowing that help is just a call away provides victims the freedom to leave their homes and the ability to make a call for help whether they are on the street, in a store or picking up the kids. That's why we are pleased to further our commitment to the San Diego Domestic Violence
(more)

Prevention Partnership with an additional donation of 300 wireless phones and free service to the City Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit."

FACTS ABOUT:

The City of San Diego works diligently to help victims of domestic violence and maintains aggressive domestic violence units in both the City Attorney's Office and the Police Department. According to City Attorney Casey Gwinn, the new partnership is yet another way the City can expand its effort to protect victims of domestic violence and reduce this crime in the future. For more information: www.sandiegodvunit.org.

Verizon Wireless, the largest wireless communications provider in the U.S. with 28 million wireless voice and data customers, embraces a philosophy of commitment to the community and focuses primarily on putting wireless products and services to work to combat domestic violence. During October, national recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Verizon Wireless is awarding more than \$210,000 to about 30 organizations in California. The outreach is part of Verizon Wireless' ongoing, nationwide campaign to promote awareness and prevention efforts within the communities it serves. For more information: www.verizonwireless.com.

The San Diego Domestic Violence Council was established in 1989 by a countywide network of battered women's programs, criminal justice agencies and other organizations and individuals that share the common goal of ending violence against women and children in the city and county of San Diego. Members of the council have offered to help local businesses by providing training and information about local resources and upcoming events. For more information: 619-533-6245 or www.sandiegodvcouncil.org.

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